7th January 1954]

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" (a) & (b) The reasons will be explained when the Bill for extending the term of the Special Officers for District Boards till the end of June 1954 comes up before this House. The scheme of decentralization of district boards must stand or fall on its own merits in regard to better administration, and it is not expected, or intended, to yield any savings to the Government."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" May I know when the Bill is likely to be introduced here? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The Bill which I have referred to in my answer will be introduced either in the present sitting of the House or in February."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Will the Government usher in this much-needed and eagerly awaited reform at an early date? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" As I said already, the Bill referred to in my original answer will be introduced in the present session or in February."

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—" The question is, whether there were any special reasons for the proposal and that has not been answered, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" When the Bill comes up before the House, all those matters could be discussed and I will be able to give much more information then, Sir."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" Are these reasons given just to postpone the elections to district boards or is there any *bona fide* intention on the part of the Government to abolish these district boards and revive taluk boards on the ground of better administration? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The Bill is intended to conduct the elections before June, Sir."

Subsidy for the gruel centres.

* 370 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government are subsidizing the gruel centres managed by the Corporation of Madras and private organizations in the State for weavers?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" All the weavers' gruel centres in the State except four centres in the rural areas of Malabar recently opened are fully financed by the Government. In the case of the four centres, excepted centres, the Government are subsidising 50 per cent of their cost."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" சென்னையில் 500 ஏழை நெசவாளர்களுக்கு மார்ச் மாதம் வரை கஞ்சி ஊற்றவேண்டும் என்று அரசாங்கம் நகர சபைக்கு கட்டளையிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஏப்ரல் மாதம் கோடை காலம்

ஆரம்பிப்பதாலும் ஏழைகள் துன்பம் அனுபவிப்பார்கள் என்ற காரணத்தாலும் இந்த வருஷம் பூராவுக்கும் இதை நீடிக்கவேண்டும் என்று உத்தரவிடுவார்களா ? 500 என்று இருப்பதை ஆயிரத்துக்கும், ஒரு வேளை என்பதை இரண்டு வேளைக்கும் உயர்த்துமா ? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The gruel centre here in the City is not meant for agriculturists but it is meant for weavers, and recently it has been extended to the end of March. The other considerations will be taken into account in course of time.''

SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM :—" மலபார் முழு நெசவாளர்களுக்கு 'உதவி செய்வதுபோல் குறிப்பாக மேலப்பாளையம், மற்றும் நெல்லை, பாளையங்கோட்டை முதலிய இடங்களிலுள்ள நெசவாளிகள் மிகவும் மோசமான நிலைமையில் இருப்பதால் அதே ஆதரவை அங்குள்ள மக்களுக்கும் காட்ட முடியுமா என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I think Melapalayam is a rural centre. If the hon. Member arranges to subsidise 50 per cent of the cost, the Government will consider the matter.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" In view of the fact that the responsibility of the Corporation of Madras is only to diffuse the municipal advantages, facilities and amenities to the residents of the Madras City and in view of the fact that it is not the responsibility of the Corporation to cater the gruel centres for the distressed weavers coming from the mufassal and not from the city of Madras, will the Government at least consider the desirability of subsidising these gruel centres which are run by the Corporation as it is not the responsibility of the Corporation to maintain them? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I am really surprised at the colossal ignorance of the hon. Member. (Laughter.) The whole cost is met by the Government.''

SRI T. S. ARDHANARI :—" சென்னை நகரசபை கஞ்சித் தொட்டியில் எவ்வளவு நெசவாளர்களுக்கு கஞ்சி ஊற்றுகிறார்கள் என்பதைச் சொல்ல முடியுமா ? ''

MR. SPEAKER :—" 500 பேர்களுக்கு என்று ஏற்கனவே பதில் சொல்லி இருக்கிறார்கள்.''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" About 400 or 500, Sir.''

The Manjalar Anicut.

* 371 *Q.*—SRI AIYANAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal for the construction of the Manjalar Anicut near Devadanapatty, Periyakulam taluk, Madurai district, and if so, at what stage it stands at present?